

NEWS from



Bill Postmus
Supervisor, 1st District

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Contact: Brad Mitzelfelt
(909) 387-4830 or
Stacy Iverson
(909) 386-7706

Children and Families Commission Approves \$55 Million in Grants

SAN BERNARDINO -- The Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County on Monday approved recommendations to contract with 56 agencies to provide services for more than 378,000 children, prenatal to age five, their families and service providers throughout San Bernardino County. The contracts will total nearly \$55 million for the next two fiscal years (2002-2004).

"This tremendous investment in the lives of our County's youngest children will have a meaningful long-term impact on the county as a whole," said Bill Postmus, Commission Chairman and San Bernardino County First District Supervisor.

This funding allocation will result in a wide variety of services provided throughout the County. Focus areas include:

- Child Development - 22 agencies totaling \$22,554,401
- Child Health - 16 agencies totaling \$18,847,958
- Family Functioning - 18 agencies totaling \$12,886,830
- Improved Systems - 1 agency totaling \$556,902

Services will cover six geographical service areas within the county: Central Valley, East Valley, High Desert, Morongo Basin, Mountains and West End. Most of the selected programs serve either countywide needs or serve two or more regions of the County. Some programs are specific to a single region of the County. Of those

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programs, the following are specific to the High Desert:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount (2 yrs)</u>
Apple Valley Unified School District	Home Visitations/Parenting Skills	\$1,575,368
Oasis Counseling Center	New Mothers/Child Development	\$1,242,440
Victor Valley Domestic Violence	Child Care	\$ 90,000
Wake-Up, Inc.	Parent Education	\$ 349,106
Desert Sanctuary, Inc.	Parent Education	\$ 154,210
High Desert Homeless Services	Parent Self-Sufficiency	\$ 163,500
WestCare Arizona, Inc.	Health/Parenting Education	\$ 551,562
<hr/> SUBTOTAL HIGH DESERT		<hr/> \$4,126,186

Postmus said this cycle's amounts compare favorably at almost triple the amount approved in the cycle prior to his becoming Commission Chairman. He said for Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002, the only High Desert approvals were for St. Mary's Hospital Foundation for \$156,806 in 2001 and \$202,349 for 2002 (total: \$359,155); and High Desert Daycare for \$447,524 in 2001 and \$671,292 for 2002 (total: \$1,118,816). This cycle's \$4,126,186 approved for High Desert programs represents a 279% increase over the previous cycle's total.

To address the needs of children living in the County, the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County released a Request For Proposals for Direct Services in December 2001. Proposals were solicited for innovative projects to meet specific needs within the community. Seven evaluation teams were designated to review the 133 proposals submitted. Each team consisted of a subject matter expert, a fiscal expert and a community representative.

"The wide variety of proposals that were received by the Commission mirror the diverse needs of our children throughout the County," said Don Larkin, executive director of the Children and Families Commission. "Through these service agencies, many children and their families will benefit."

Since its inception in 1998, the Commission has allocated more than \$45 million to serving young children and their families throughout the County. Proposition 10 and the establishment of the California Children and Families Act of 1998 made funding for these programs possible. The act mandates the distribution of millions of dollars yearly throughout California from a \$.50 tobacco tax on tobacco products. San Bernardino County receives approximately \$27 million each year from this accrual and allocates it to programs throughout the county to provide quality services for the children of San Bernardino County and their families.

For more information about the Commission, visit its website at www.sanbernardinokids.org.